year under the supervision of Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO). Of the 100 clusters selected for the current year 50 have been taken up for development by KVIC, 25 by SIDBI and the remaining 25 by the *SIDO, NABARD* and State Governments concerned.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States through the various Schemes indicated above.

Impact of liberalisation on Indian Industry

964. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Indian Industry has welcomed the liberalisation move of Government;

(b) if so, to what extent this liberalisation move has helped the Indian Industry;

(c) whether more and more investment in all the sectors have been encouraged;

(d) the number of total foreign investors who have come after this decision; and

(e) to what extent easing of FDI norms has helped the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Apex industry associations have welcomed the liberalisation and have even sougth further reforms.

(b) to (e) The process of liberalisation has been more extensive since 1991. Industrial Licensing stands abolished for all the industries, except a few, which are strategically important. Liberalisation was brought in with a view to bring competition and free market, efficient use of scarce resources and ensuring rapid growth. The liberalisation has made the entrepreneurs free to take investment decisions based on their own preception.

Since initiation of liberalisation policy till June, 2001, the proposed investment through Letters of Intent (LoIs) and Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEMs) stood at Rs. 1,027,491 crore.

During the period from 1991 to May, 2001, 12,842 proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth of Rs. 259,545.3 crore have been cleared. The total inflows amounting to Rs. 96,034.5 crore have been received during the period, showing a steady increase in FDI approvals and realisation during the post liberalisation policy period.

The amount of inflows has supplemented the domestic investment required for achieving a higher level of economic development. FDI benefits domestic industry by providing opportunities for technological up-gradation, access to global managerial skills and practices. It encourages optimal utilisation of human and natural resources, making Indian industry internationally competitive, opening up export markets and access to international quality goods and services.

Removal of export restrictions on agricultural products

965. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to lift export restriction on nine agricultural products including wheat, onions and pulses;

(b) if so, whether this is in the wake of dismantling of quantitative restrictions in imports;

(c) whether the decision to remove export restrictions has already been taken by the Ministry;

(d) if so, whether Government have finally approved the Ministry's proposal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by what time they are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) The Government has been following a consistent policy of liberalisation of trade and removal of restrictions on export and improt items from time to time. The Government has already removed quantitative restrictions on export of sugar. Wheat products have also been allowed for export without any quantitative ceilings for the current year, 2001-2002.